



Lake Views

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1 - WINTER 2025

LAKE VIEWS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LAKE COUNTY

ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEXT OHIO WINTER?

Fall has drawn to a close and we all know what that means; it's time to put your lawnmower to bed and wake up your snow blower! As you put away your string trimmer, don't forget to add a stabilizer product to mixed gas and hold it for next spring. Our Soil and Water Conservation District wants to remind everyone to make sure your snow blower is ready for service by draining or changing engine fluids. Any used lubricants should be collected in individual containers, sealed, and then taken to a household hazardous waste collection event when they occur later in 2025. Never drain fluids onto the ground or dump them in a storm drain. For further questions about preventing water pollution, please visit lakecountyohio.gov/swcd or follow [lakeswcdohio](#) on social media.

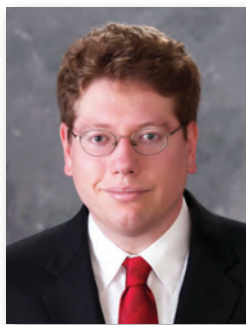
And as we near the holiday season, Ho

Ho Ho-ld the salt! Using too much salt actually slows down melting. It can also kill your lawn, fish, and other animals in nearby streams so reduce your use by mixing the salt with sand or applying a little bit of salt right before the snow starts. Better yet, go salt free by using bird seed, fireplace ashes, ground corn cobs, or beet juice products.

Our Lake County Dog Warden would like to remind us that while it's getting colder and we are snuggled up warm indoors, don't forget outside animals need extra bedding and plenty of food and water during the winter. If temperatures are freezing, please move

your animals indoors if possible or into a sheltered area and refer to *Page 2* for details on license renewal for 2025.

Our first newsletter for 2025 also brings about a few reminders: All county offices will be closed Tuesday December 24th, Wednesday December 25th, and Wednesday January 1st in observance of Christmas and New Years. For a full list of county closings for 2025, see page 4. Finally, and most importantly, we wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday and winter season enjoyed with family and friends! ■



COMMISSIONER / President
JOHN PLECNİK



COMMISSIONER
JOHN HAMERCHECK



COMMISSIONER
RICHARD REGOVICH

LAKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PRESENTS: FIRST ANNUAL STATE OF THE COUNTY REPORT



At the October 29th Commissioner's Meeting, Commission President John T. Plecnik and Lake County Administrator Jason W. Boyd delivered the inaugural State of the County report in a presentation held at the Lake County Administration Building. This report, established by a resolution passed on July 30, 2024, provided a comprehensive overview of the County's achievements, challenges, and future initiatives aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability to citizens.

Boyd, along with Plecnik, presented key findings which detailed significant progress in various sectors including public safety, economic development, and infrastructure improvements. *The presentation encompassed several critical topics including but not limited to:*

(continued on p3)



TRUSTED RESOURCES FOR SENIORS

Since 1972

COUNCIL ON AGING
Lake County

Established in 1972, the Lake County Council on Aging (LCCOA) has been the first voice and a trusted resource for older adults, their families, and caregivers. The agency offers a variety of services and programs that address the unique needs of the aging population by promoting independence, dignity and peace of mind for those aged 60 years and older. LCCOA is also designated as Lake County's "Aging and Disability Resource Center" (ADRC), providing assistance and counseling services for seniors and those 18 and over with disabilities.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICE

A team of licensed social workers conduct visits to the homes of Lake County residents age 60+ to complete comprehensive assessments and help individuals develop plans to receive assistance in areas of need, make connections with service providers and assist in accessing community resources.

HOME DELIVERED MEALS

The Home-Delivered Meals program, commonly known as Meals on Wheels, is one of the cornerstone services provided by the LCCOA providing nutritionally balanced hot meals delivered weekdays to homebound seniors. More than a meal, the program assures daily interaction with a caring volunteer, improves quality of life, and reassures family members that their loved ones are being supported.



LUNCH PLACE DINING

For seniors who can attend in person, the LCCOA offers congregate or sit-down meals at "lunch place cafes" located in Willowick, Painesville, Madison and Wickliffe, providing an opportunity for seniors to enjoy a healthy meal while socializing with their peers. Diners must register to make a meal reservation in advance at any one of the sites.

HOMEMAKER SERVICE

LCCOA's Homemaker Program assists income eligible seniors twice a month with light housekeeping such as vacuuming, changing bed linens, mopping floors, and cleaning of kitchens and bathrooms.

NON-MEDICAL IN-HOME CARE PROGRAM

This service provides in-home care for income qualified older adults who are not eligible for traditional Medicaid based programs and cannot afford to pay privately for the personal care they need. Seniors who meet program eligibility guidelines may receive a 2-4 hour visit once per week from a contracted home care aide to assist with personal care and other included services.

HEALTH EQUIPMENT LENDING PROGRAM (H.E.L.P)

The Council on Aging accepts donations of clean, gently used, and durable medical equipment through the HELP program. This equipment is then loaned out to seniors in need at no cost, and includes such items as bedside commodes, rollators, tub seats, and wheelchairs.

(continued on p4)

ATTENTION LAKE COUNTY DOG OWNERS

*Ohio law requires all dogs 3 mo. of age & older to be registered annually.
Licenses go on sale Dec. 1 thru Jan. 31 . The basic fee is \$20 per dog.*

DocuPet is new this year! Order dog tags online:



lakecountyohio.docupet.com

Questions? Contact DocuPet @ 1-877-239-6072

Licenses purchased after Jan. 31 double in price per Ohio Law. Dog owners who fail to license their dogs are subject to a \$250 fine plus court costs!



Interested in a Designer Tag?
50% off Code - LAKECOUNTY50
Does not include personalization, discounted tags, add ons or connectors. One use per person

LAKE COUNTY BUILDING & GROUNDS DEPARTMENT: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

A county Buildings and Grounds Department is vital as it ensures the safety, functionality, and proper maintenance of all county buildings and grounds directly impacting the working environment for county employees and the public who visit these facilities all while helping to manage costs by preventing unnecessary repairs through proactive maintenance.

The Lake County Buildings and Grounds Department (B&G) consists of (45) staff members made up of custodians, laborers, tradesmen, and administrative personnel. The department is run by Director of Facilities, Mark Iafelice, and is responsible for the repair, maintenance and preservation of (23) Lake County buildings totaling 718,160 sq. ft.

Building & Grounds manages services such as electricity, HVAC, plumbing, and security systems as well as cleaning services and risk management. They also maintain three separate budgets:

Buildings & Grounds - \$3,191,570
for the daily needs of the county;

Central Purchasing - \$151,630
used to purchase various products for the county; and

Mailroom - \$145,440
which covers outgoing and incoming county mailings, postage and UPS/USPS shipping services.



The Buildings & Grounds Department also manages several large projects each year that relate to facility improvements such as renovations and technological upgrades. Past projects have included the new Buildings & Grounds/ Telecommunications Building, modernization of the Courthouse Clocktower, and the construction of the new Administration Center.

In addition, Lake County B&G is currently working on HVAC system in (4) facilities. The county is installing high efficiency boilers, thermal storage cooling and automation which is partly being funded by ARPA in the amount of \$5,000,000. These are modern energy-saving systems which will save the county in utility costs today and well into the future. This project is also eligible for energy tax credits from the federal government which the county will receive in the form of a monetary return on the project. ■

FIRST ANNUAL STATE OF THE COUNTY REPORT (continued from page 1)

- A profile of various county departments
- An overview of the County's budget and financial position
- A review of major capital projects and infrastructure improvements
- An assessment of County services and programs
- Updates on key initiatives and projects
- Challenges facing the County along with proposed solutions
- A summary of major accomplishments and achievements

Commission President John T. Plecnik remarked on the importance of the report stating, "This first-ever 'State of the County' Report serves as a vital tool for communicating with citizens, stakeholders, and other government entities. We believe it will promote open governance and enhance transparency by providing a thorough overview of the County's activities and initiatives."

The report reflected that, although Lake County may be the smallest county in Ohio geographically, we have the 11th largest population out of 88 counties and it covered how we are one of only 33 counties to show a population increase from 2010-2020.

"This reflects our commitment to transparency and accountability. By

sharing this information, we are empowering our residents to be informed participants in local government and to understand the challenges and successes within our community," said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.

Commissioner Richard J. Regovich added, "The annual State of the County Report is an important step towards building trust with our constituents. It not only showcases what we have accomplished together but also sets the stage for continued collaboration towards solving the issues that matter most to our citizens."

A copy of the report can be found on the County's website at lakecountyohio.gov/commissioners-office/state-of-the-county-presentations. ■



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COMMISSIONERS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT EASTLAKE THE CROWN JEWEL OF LAKE COUNTY

Nestled approximately 19 miles northeast of Cleveland along the beautiful shores of Lake Erie, our community is vibrant and filled with opportunities for fun, recreation, and local pride. Eastlake hosts an outdoor summer concert series that brings the community together for music and fun. We organize special events throughout the year to engage and entertain our residents. Eastlake has a robust manufacturing base and are proud to welcome new establishments like Biggby Coffee, Carby's, and Crowley's which opened this year. We take pride in supporting local businesses that contribute to our community's charm and diversity.

If you're looking for sports, look no further than Eastlake! This year, we welcomed the Eastlake Titans, a new cricket league that has quickly made its mark in our community. In a thrilling inaugural season, the Titans brought home the championship win. Our Mayor, Jim Overstreet, was on hand to present the team with the Championship Trophy in October. Eastlake continued to expand its recreational offerings by installing two new Pickle Ball Courts in the lot near the Senior Center. Many residents enjoyed fun filled afternoons this summer playing this very popular sport.

In collaboration with the American Croatian Soccer league, 2025 will bring about the installation of 2 new soccer fields to be located behind the Senior

Center. The new fields will not only accommodate additional games but also allow us to host national and international tournaments, drawing visitors to our vibrant city. We are committed to fostering athletic talent and encouraging sportsmanship among our youth and adults alike. Our goal is to promote an active lifestyle and create more opportunities for community engagement. Eastlake is excited about the potential for growth and community connection through these sports venues.



Eastlake is thrilled to support the 2024 Midwest League Champion Lake County Captains, a Minor League baseball team affiliated with the Cleveland Guardians. Come cheer on the team and enjoy the excitement of live baseball in our city. Near and dear to our hearts is the Miracle League of Lake County. This incredible organization is part of a global network with over 270 affiliated teams across the US, Canada, Mexico, and Australia, serving over 200,000 children and young adults with special needs. Our adaptive baseball field and playground provide these athletes with the chance to experience the joy of playing baseball which create lasting memories.

Eastlake is a thriving community where residents can enjoy a blend of recreational, cultural, and economic activities. There's always something good happening in Eastlake! ■

SENIORS *(continued from page2)*

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

The ADRC is the starting place for accurate, unbiased information on community services and support. Services include Information & Assistance, Options Counseling, and Benefits Assistance.

Finally, if you're interested in volunteering, the Council on Aging has numerous opportunities to get involved, make a difference, and support our aging seniors in Lake County. LCCOA will help find the right position for you! If you're an older adult or caregiver who needs support at home, then your first call should be to Council on Aging.

*If you have questions or for more information, you can visit the Council on Aging website at lcco.org or call (440) 205-8111 between the hours of 9:00-4:30 Monday-Friday. *The Lake County Council on Aging is primarily funded by the Lake County Senior Services Levy* ■*

2025 LAKE COUNTY OFFICES ANNUAL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

ALL COUNTY OFFICES WILL
BE CLOSED ON THESE DAYS

JAN 1	New Year's Day
JAN 20	MLK Day
FEB 17	Presidents Day
MAY 26	Memorial Day
JUNE 19	Juneteenth
JULY 4	Independence Day
SEPT 1	Labor Day
OCT 13	Columbus Day
NOV 11	Veterans Day
NOV 27-28	Thanksgiving
DEC 25-26	Christmas